

Preserving Forest Grove

Newsletter of the Historic Landmarks Board

Historic Preservation Renovation Grants

By Neil Poulsen

Forest Grove is proud of its architectural heritage. If you own a home that's registered as a historic building, renovation funds may be available to help bring the exterior of your house back to its original styling and condition. Structural improvements to preserve structural integrity may also apply.

The grant program was started in 1997 to help offset some negative aspects of locating a waste management transfer site within the city limits. Funds come from Metro, and the amount is based on the annual tonnage of waste that is handled by the facility. Funds for the grant are not derived from City of Forest Grove related taxes.

For a better idea of the kinds of projects that qualify, here are two examples of past grant projects. Daren and Keli Marsden own the Hollis House at 2620 18th Avenue. The house was reportedly built in 1880, but they think it was built earlier than that. As previous owners, the DeWeese-Parkinsons received a grant to improve the front porch in the summer of 2004.

The porch and the attractive flowers along the walk help set off the Victorian styling of the house. The grant included installing the new railing. As future projects, the Marsdens want to refinish the porch flooring and stairs and replace the non-period door.

Bob and Janice Davey own the Randels House at 2038 18th Avenue, which was built in 1931. They received a grant in 2005 that helped make a variety of improvements. Exposed to the elements, the base-molding and plinth (square board) of the column on the corner of their porch needed replacement.

None of the original wood was salvageable. The replacement was built from scratch by a craftsman in exchange for the tool needed to reproduce the base-molding contours.

The grant also went towards repairing the chimney and fireplace on the east side of the house.

Some of the mortar had to be replaced four inches into the brick, making this a time-

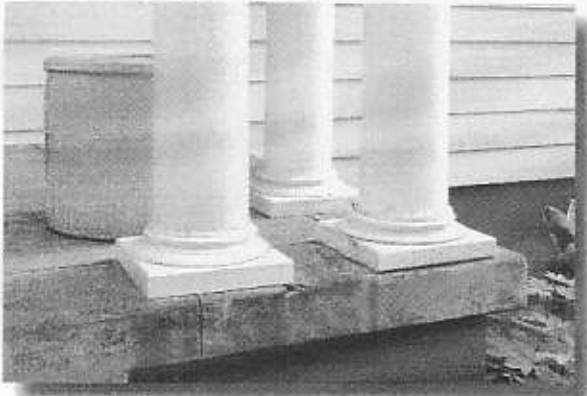


Hollis House front porch

consuming project.

Finally, exposure had deteriorated the fascia of the Davey's back porch.

The fascia is comprised of the two inclined



Randels House front porch

boards that come to an apex at the end of the porch's roof. You can see that the work was done in a way that's consistent with the original styling of the porch.



Randels House chimney

Other projects that have received funding include replacing gutters, roof and window repair, removing asbestos siding, painting, foundation work and cornice restoration.

Do you have a project? Grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. They're not awarded for materials already purchased or for work that's in progress or already completed. You can apply for a grant by downloading the form from the Forest Grove Historical Landmark Board website: <http://www.ci.forest-grove.or.us/NewSite/Landmarksboard/>



Randels House back porch

After completing and signing the form, mail it to Community Development, City of Forest Grove, 1924 Council Street. Or, you can stop and give it to Associate Planner, James Reitz at the same location. You

can also email the form to James at jreitz@ci.forest-grove.or.us and sign it at a later time.

Restoring a registered historic home can a rewarding experience. Act early and hopefully take advantage of this grant opportunity.

Reincarnation

by Jon Stagnitti

Webster defines reincarnation as "a fresh embodiment." What could be fresher, and embody the spirit of Forest Grove, more than a new community school. Well, how about a new community school located right in the heart of our downtown...in a former funeral home, no less!

Founders of the Forest Grove Community Charter School, working together with the Forest Grove School District, the City Planning Commission and local business owner Preston Alexander, hope to make this a reality. As an advocate and practitioner of historic preservation, I find this prospect to be very exciting. Finding a long-term, modern use for a historic resource can be integral to its survival. Frequent turnover of owners or tenants can be hard on any home or commercial property, but especially so on the vintage ones...with their ever-present need for upkeep.

1914 Pacific Avenue was destined to be a part of Forest Grove's history from the get go. Built in 1922, the building, along with the houses on both sides and several others around town, was constructed using a patented system known as the "Taylor Process Hollow Concrete Wall." The system was developed by entrepreneur John Taylor and promoted through the Thormost Building Corporation. Taylor's system, which was reportedly used in Ohio and Florida before making its way to Forest Grove, consisted of two three-inch walls of concrete separated by a one-inch air space. This system seems to provide an

extra element of fire protection...perfect for a school full of young people whose minds will be running hot.

To learn more about our local historic buildings, please visit: www.ci.forest-grove.or.us/newsite/Landmarksboard

To learn more about the Forest Grove Community School, please visit: www.fgcschool.org

Welcome New Board Members!

Kevin Kamberg

Although technically a native Californian, I'm about as close to a native Oregonian as a person could be without actually having been born here. I've lived in Oregon since I was four, my father is a native Oregonian, his father is a native Oregonian and my greatgrandfather came to Oregon via the legendary Oregon Trail. Except for a brief stint living in France and an even briefer stint living in Northern Washington, I've lived in Western Washington County since 1977 and in Forest Grove since 1992.

While I have never owned a historic home, I am a long-time fan of PBS's "This Old House" and "The Antiques Roadshow" television programs. Professionally I am a Master Finisher/Painter and have managed the paint shop for a Portland exhibit house since early 2001.

I'm also a budding fine woodworker in my off time and my partner and I currently have a few pieces in a Portland gallery. When I'm not doing that I am a single father with two teenage daughters.

Neil Poulsen

Neil has lived in west Forest Grove for thirteen years. He's currently semi-retired, enjoying his lifelong interest as an architectural photographer and providing digital services to the imaging community. During his professional career, he began by teaching math in eastern Oregon.

He later entered graduate school at Oregon State University and obtained his Masters and Ph.D. in Statistics. He's worked as a consulting statistician at the Dial Research Center in Scottsdale, Arizona, at Intel for nine years in multiple locations, and at Merix for over four years.

The Forest Grove Historic Landmarks Board Grant Program

Is your house on our local register? If it is, did you know that your house is eligible for restoration / rehabilitation grant funding? The Historic Landmarks Board has funds to help you with your projects. If you are planning any exterior restoration work such as restoring architectural features or if you have structural work to do such a foundation repair, we'd love to help. We fund projects up to 50% of the cost of the job per grant. Come see us! We can also help you find historically appropriate solutions to any problems you may have.

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